

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

DATE: July 10, 2015

CONTACT: Gary Miller (5-8318)

PURPOSE: Harris County Request for Meeting with Regional Administrator

BACKGROUND:

- Former waste pits for disposal of paper mill wastes containing dioxins, located at the San Jacinto River & I-10, Channelview, Harris County, TX.
- Removal action completed July 2011 to cap waste pits and prevent further releases to the river.
- Superfund Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study in progress by Potentially Responsible Parties.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- EPA input on best use for \$20,000,000 settlement received by Harris County & TPWD.
- Site plans for additional investigations & timeline for remedy selection.
- Use EPA authority to order International Paper to produce 44,000 documents.
- Cancel cluster study.

CURRENT STATUS:

- Draft Corps of Engineers report expected in July 2015, when it will be sent to partner agencies (TCEQ, Harris County, and Port of Houston) for review/comment. Final Corps report will be used to inform/final Feasibility Study for site.
- Developing sampling plans for ground water, pore water, sediment, and surface water using input from partner agencies. Plan PRP sampling with EPA dive team used to place & retrieve passive pore water samplers. Expect draft scope to partner agencies week of 7/13/15.
- Anticipate Record of Decision issued June 2016.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Texas Department of State Health Services forming panel including outside experts, EPA, and community representative to review cancer data & evaluate whether epidemiologic study is recommended. First conference call scheduled for 7/24/2015.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Anne?

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/OUTREACH

- Alternatives for use of settlement funds include: (1) infrastructure for water & sewer; (2) health studies; (3) residential soil sampling; (4) new lab equipment for Harris County Pollution Control; (5) creation of wildlife/nature preserves; and (6) educational/memorial center.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue to work with Harris County & others on sampling plans.
- Request from Harris County a list of withheld sampling & other investigations related documents & obtain such documents from PRPs.

